Rail line between Dindigul and Kottayam

1543. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the survey conducted during 1996 to lay new rail line (BG) between Dindigul and Kottayam via Sabarimalai was completed in 1997 itself;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to take to expedite this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The survey report for construction of a new line from Dindigul to Sabarimala revealed that the cost of 165 kms. line would be Rs. 530 crs. with a negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources it has not been found possible to take up the project. However, construction of a new line from Angamali to Sabarimala via Erumali has been sanctioned and necessary clearances have been obtained and work would be started once land becomes available. The work of construction of new line from Kottayam to Erumali has also been included in the Budget and will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances for which action has been initiated.

MOU between AHEAD and NISCOM

1544. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Asian Health Environment and Allied Database (AHEAD) and National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM)/CSIR during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the signatories to the above MoU; and

(c) the full text of the above MoU?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. No such memorandum was signed. However, a Memorandum of grant conditions was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada for the project entitled, "CD-ROM of Asian information on Health and the Environment".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dispersed and distributed information Technology Activities in CSIR

1545. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), C.S.I.R., went on Medical leave in February, 1997 and later on 25th April, 1997 took over charge at NCL, Pune for preparing a detailed project report for establishing a single point for coordinating the dispersed and distributed information technology activities in C.S.I.R.; and

(b) if so, whether the Director, NISCOM has been sent on leave or on deputation for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir. Dr. G.P. Phondke, Director, National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), availed medical leave upto 25.4.1997 with permission to suffix 26th & 27th April, 1997. After expiry of medical leave, he appeared before the One Man Fact Finding Committee (OMFFC) appointed to look into the NISCOM affairs, thereafter with the